

amount of electrical energy available to operate the vehicle and the estimated vehicle load; and

means for selecting a setpoint transition strategy to transition alternator operation between the voltage regulation strategies.

#### R E M A R K S

Applicants' attorney thanks Examiner Gonzalez for the telephonic interviews held on April 12, 2002.

#### *Election/Restrictions*

Pursuant to the above-referenced telephonic interviews, the Examiner agrees that claims 1-23 (Groups I and II) and new claims 25 and 26 are directed at a single invention. Applicants therefore elect claims 1-23 (Groups I and II) and new claims 15 and 26, and withdraw claim 24 from consideration without prejudice.

No new matter has been added via new claims 25 and 26.

#### *Claim Informality*

Claim 21 has been amended to properly depend from system claim 16, which includes antecedent basis for "an amount of electrical energy available to operate the vehicle."

The foregoing claim amendment does not introduce any new matter, and is not intended to limit, restrict or otherwise preclude applicant from asserting any subsequent patent rights under the judicially recognized doctrine of equivalents.

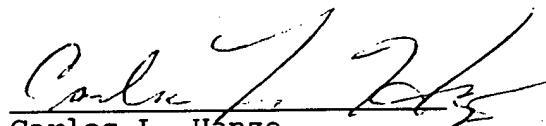
#### *Conclusion*

Claims 1-23, including amended claim 21, and new claims 25 and 26 remain pending in the present application, and

allowance thereof is respectfully requested. If any further amendment is necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable condition, the Examiner is courteously requested to contact the undersigned by fax or telephone at the number listed below.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account 06-1510. If there are insufficient funds in this account, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1500.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Enclosure

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